

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 - 28. (Cancelled)

29. (currently amended) A connecting device for connecting a first workpiece having an interior space to a second workpiece, said connecting device comprising:

a clamping screw and a sleeve; ~~for connecting a first workpiece having an interior space to the second workpiece~~

the clamping screw having a shank which engages in a longitudinal groove of the first workpiece and which can be inserted into an opposing element in an interior space of the second workpiece;;

~~wherein~~ the shank of the clamping screw ~~passes~~ passing through the sleeve;;

said sleeve ~~is~~ being provided with outer ribs and ~~is~~ being fixed in the longitudinal groove of the first workpiece such that a threaded area of the clamping screw protrudes beyond a face of the first workpiece;; ~~and is~~

said clamping screw being provided with a screw head;; ~~at a distance therefrom,~~

~~wherein~~ the threaded area of the clamping screw ~~has~~ having a nut screw head which can be fitted thereon;; ~~and~~

said nut screw head ~~is~~ being designed such that said nut screw head can be inserted into an undercut longitudinal groove of the second workpiece;~~;~~ and

~~wherein~~ the sleeve ~~has~~ having at least three groups of said outer ribs which are parallel to a longitudinal axis of the sleeve~~;~~;

~~which~~ said outer ribs, in a fixing position, ~~are~~ being assigned to radial grooves in a groove bottom and in facing surfaces of the longitudinal groove ~~on rib shapes which delimit a profile side face;~~ and

wherein one of said outer ribs is approximately triangular in cross section and merges with its rib faces into shaped channels of a sleeve outer face.

30. (cancelled)

31. (previously presented) The connecting device as claimed in claim 29, wherein rib crests of a number of said outer ribs run parallel to one another.

32. (previously presented) The connecting device as claimed in claim 29, wherein rib crests of a number of said outer ribs define a common annular contour.

33. (previously presented) The connecting device as claimed in claim 29, wherein the outer ribs of the sleeve can be inserted in said radial grooves of the first workpiece.

34. (previously presented) The connecting device as claimed in claim 29, wherein one sleeve edge of the sleeve fixed in the first workpiece is approximately flush with the face of the first workpiece.

35. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A connecting device as claimed in claim 29, for connecting a first workpiece having an interior space to a second workpiece, said connecting device comprising:

a clamping screw and a sleeve;

the clamping screw having a shank which engages in a longitudinal groove of the first workpiece and which can be inserted into an opposing element in an interior space of the second workpiece;

the shank of the clamping screw passing through the sleeve;

said sleeve being provided with outer ribs and being fixed in the longitudinal groove of the first workpiece such that a threaded area of the clamping screw protrudes beyond a face of the first workpiece;

said clamping screw being provided with a screw head;

the threaded area of the clamping screw having a nut screw head which can be fitted thereon;

said nut screw head being designed such that said nut screw head can be inserted into an undercut longitudinal groove of the second workpiece;

the sleeve having at least three groups of said outer ribs which are parallel to a longitudinal axis of the sleeve, which said outer ribs, in a fixing position, are assigned to radial grooves in a groove bottom and in facing surfaces of the longitudinal groove;

one sleeve edge of the sleeve fixed in the first workpiece  
being approximately flush with the face of the first workpiece;  
and

wherein a ring, which is made of elastic material and surrounds the threaded area of the clamping screw, is arranged between the one sleeve edge and the screw head.

36. (previously presented) The connecting device as claimed in claim 29, wherein the screw head which can be screwed onto the clamping screw is designed in a plate-shaped manner.

37. (previously presented) The connecting device as claimed in claim 36, wherein a length of the screw head is shorter than a width of a groove space of the undercut longitudinal groove which receives the screw head.

38. (currently amended) The connecting device as claimed in claim 35, wherein the ~~shaped~~ outer ribs delimiting the longitudinal groove are designed in a hook-shaped manner and faces of hook ends which are directed toward the groove bottom are designed as an abutment for the screw head.

39. (previously presented) The connecting device as claimed in claim 38, wherein the hook ends have a height which corresponds approximately to a height of the ring made of elastic material which is mounted between them.

40 - 56. (cancelled)